

REMARKS

The Official Action of September 22, 2004, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 9-16, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 1-8 have been canceled in favor of new claims 9-16 which remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to and rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has canceled claims 1-8 in favor of new claims 9-16 which have been drafted to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection and rejection have now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '370 to Hidechika in view of Avila '554, and claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hidechika in view of Avila, further in view of JP '783 to Yasuhiko. Applicant

respectfully traverses these rejections especially as applied to new claims 9-16.

The claimed invention is directed to protecting the cup support element of a relatively fragile nature against damage due to a great load (at F for instance) applied thereto in a vertical direction (or in a downward direction). This is because, when being applied by a vertical load, the securing pieces (3) are resilient bent vertically or downwardly relative to the wire framework (4) (or the wire sub-assembly (4A)), thereby absorbing most of the load due to the elastic buffer actions of the securing pieces (3), thus preventing the vertical load from being directly imparted to the relatively fragile cup support element (1). It is also noted that such elastic buffer action of securing pieces (3) effectively prevents the load from being directly exerted on the protection plate (2) as well. Such protection results in refining the shape of the cup support element (1) and allowing smooth movement of the slide support member (1B) in the cup support element (1).

Applicant believes that the primary inventive features of the claimed invention that produces the above noted operation are the plurality of bendable securing pieces (3) projected horizontally from the protection plate (2) which embracingly covers a cup support element (1) and also the

secure connection of such bendable securing pieces (3) with a wire framework (4) (or a wire sub-assembly (4A) in a limited sense).

In comparison, Hidechika is limited to showing a container (1) having horizontal flanges (1b) formed integrally therewith and is entirely silent as to the protection plate and formation of bendable securing pieces with the protection plate as claimed. Regarding the Examiner's comment on the similarity of the wire frame (9) of the Hidechika to the wire frame of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the Hidechika wire frame (9) is just a trim wire inserted in a sleeve of a trim end, and therefore not a wire frame forming a part of a seat cushion, which is embedded in the foam padding, as in the claimed invention.

Avila does not disclose formation of the horizontally projecting securing pieces with the support frame (34).

The same applies to the Yasuhiko '783, Rander '436 and Bennet '683, which are all silent as to the protection plate and bendable securing pieces formed therewith as claimed. In particular, the Yasuhiko reference has no disclosure for such protection plate.

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Applicant submits that new claims 9-16 reflects the distinctive features of the claimed invention discussed above, and patentably define over the cited prior art.

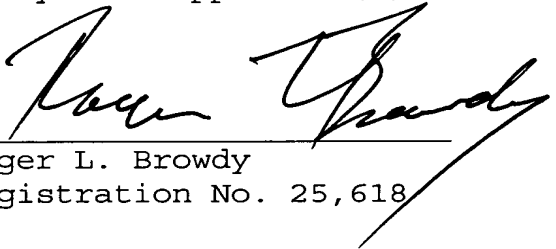
The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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